

I would like to express my strong support for the petition to allow rebroadcast of transmissions originating from the International Space Station Alpha by licencees in the Amateur Radio Service. As an Asst. ScoutMaster as well as an Advanced Class licensee, the proposed rule change will allow increased opportunity for Amateur Radio to provide educational and beneficial activities in the areas of science and space exploration for groups such as Scouting. In addition it will allow Amateurs to more easily follow the heavily scheduled activities of the Alpha crew and plan for direct contact through Amateur radio. On two recent spacewalks in January 2002 Alpha crewmembers installed two antennas for use in the Amateur Satellite Service. Two additional antennas are scheduled to be installed on future EVA's. This will bring the total number of Amateur Antennas on Alpha to 5. This represents an extraordinary commitment by the parties of the ISS project that reaches beyond that of Amateur Radio activities past or present aboard the Space Shuttle. This is due for the obvious reason, the Shuttle can only remain on orbit for a limited time, Alpha maintains a continuous outpost in space. Due to this and logistical advantages events can be scheduled well in advance (such as EVA's) and be well known. Also cameras on Alpha are always on even if no 'event' is occurring. This allows greater flexibility to an Amateur to rebroadcast especially for educational, instructional, and youth program purposes. Not having to worry about the EVA scheduled at 3 am for a Shuttle mission that may be changed, but simply showing, for example, "Kids this is a live picture of Earth from Alpha", on a schedule of that groups choosing would be of immense value.

73,

David KB5IZO